



Vol. 3 Issue 11 November 2020

IMPACT UPDATE

Protecting, Preventing, Providing

Larry Hogan

Boyd K. Rutherford

Colonel Woodrow W. Jones III

Governor

Lt. Governor

Superintendent

Contents

Employee of the Year
Awards

MSP, AG Announce 19
Drug Ring Indictments

College Park Barrack Rewards
Good Children With Slurpees

State Police Continue to
Enforce 'Move Over' Laws

MSPAC Rescues Two In
Western Maryland

Troopers Charge Suspects
For Weapons Violations



2019 Maryland State Police Trooper of the Year Kashef Khan

Gov. Hogan, Superintendent Present MSP Employee Of The Year Awards

(SYKESVILLE, MD) – Governor Larry Hogan joined Maryland State Police Superintendent Colonel Woodrow Jones III on Sept. 30 to present awards to Department employees of the year for 2019 and to those honored for actions above and beyond the call of duty.

During an abbreviated event with limited attendance that included appropriate health precautions, Trooper Kashef Khan, now assigned to the Glen Burnie Barrack, was named the 2019 Trooper of the Year.

A sergeant in the Criminal Enforcement Division who works undercover was awarded Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year. PCO Michael Hoffman, of the Bel Air Barrack, was awarded

Police Communications Operator of the Year and PCS Sydney Sarrichio, of the Rockville Barrack, won Police Communications Supervisor of the Year for the fourth consecutive year.

“Every day that I have served as governor, I have been immensely proud of the men and women of the MSP – those of you who put your lives on the line for the rest of us,” said Governor Hogan. “Especially in today’s environment, when too often our law enforcement officers are unfairly criticized and don’t get the recognition and appreciation that they deserve, I want you all to know that you have, and will always have, the full support of your governor.”

See AWARDS, page 2



“Those honored today exemplify the very best of the sworn and civilian members of our Department, who diligently and selflessly work to protect our citizens,” Maryland State Police Superintendent Colonel Woodrow Jones III said. “I appreciate their dedication to duty and their desire to do all they can to make our highways and our communities safer.”

Trooper Kashef Khan, the 2019 statewide Trooper of the Year, led the Forestville Barrack in traffic, criminal, drug, and DUI enforcement in 2019.

He earned Trooper of the Month honors at the barrack 11 of 12 months that year. Trooper Khan issued more than 3,200 citations, 1,700 warnings and 300 repair orders. He arrested 132 impaired drivers and made 42 criminal and 47 warrant arrests in 2019. Trooper Khan is now assigned to the Glen Burnie Barrack and patrols Anne Arundel County.

The 2019 Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year is a sergeant assigned to the Criminal Enforcement Division. He is not being identified due to his assignment as an undercover investigator. One of the multiple investigations this supervisor coordinated that year involved a large scale heroin trafficking investigation of a suspect importing kilograms of heroin into the Baltimore region.



Working with the Baltimore Police Department and Homeland Security Investigations, the sergeant invested hundreds of investigative hours during a period of less than two months.

A search warrant resulted in the recovery of almost 23 pounds of high-grade heroin valued at between two and three million dollars and \$90,000 in drug-related cash. The investigation determined the heroin was imported directly from Mexico and was headed straight to the streets in Baltimore and the surrounding region.

Police Communications Operator of the Year Michael Hoffman, of the Bel Air Barrack, was unexpectedly assigned the duties of acting Police Communications Supervisor in early 2019, in addition to continuing to perform his duties as a police communications opera-

tor. He willingly accepted that role, despite the challenges he knew he would face.

PCO Hoffman identified and remedied issues he found with warrant and property record programs. He ensured compliance with all MILES/NCIC requirements. He completed all PCO performance evaluations, oversaw training of current and new employees and established a PCO sick leave call-out and coverage policy.

His dedication to duty led him to cover unexpectedly open shifts to prevent his PCOs from having to double back, or be held out for an extra shift.

See AWARDS, page 3



IMPACT UPDATE

AWARDS, from page 2

Police Communications Supervisor of the Year Sydney Sarrichio exemplified the important role dispatchers have in assisting with police work.

During 2019, PCS Sarrichio took a call from a woman attempting suicide in her car on I-495. Staying calm, he was able to obtain her name, phone number and vehicle description, while he was notifying police units of her location and description. He developed a rapport and talked with the woman, keeping her on the line. Through his efforts, the woman was located and saved.

While talking with a victim in a traffic crash, he realized the other driver was threatening the victim with a knife. PCS Sarrichio quickly dispatched troopers and county officers to the location, helping to prevent injury to the

man. He took another call reporting a vehicle with \$10,000 worth of stolen property inside.

PCS Sarrichio again coordinated a multi-agency search for the van, which was ultimately located and resulted in the recovery of the property and arrest of the suspects.



**Maryland State Police 2019 Police Communications
Supervisor of the Year Sydney Sarrichio**

Governor Hogan presented a Governor's Citation to Trooper First Class Tyler Michael, who confronted a man armed with a knife who had been slashing tires while walking through a community in Carroll County in 2019. In the middle of a busy intersection, TFC Michael placed himself between the armed man and pedestrians in the area.

The man stabbed the trooper, but despite his wound, TFC Michael continued his attempts to convince the man to surrender peacefully.

When the man again advanced on the trooper and others nearby, in order to protect and preserve life, TFC Michael used deadly force to incapacitate the suspect and end the threat. TFC Michael immediately called for emergency medical services and, ignoring his own wound, provided emergency care to the wounded suspect.



**Gov. Hogan and Col. Jones recognized those involved in the Year of the
Woman Law Enforcement Seminar and recruiting effort this year .**



IMPACT UPDATE

MSP, Maryland Attorney General Announce 19 Indictments In Drug Trafficking Enterprise

(PIKESVILLE, MD) — Maryland State Police Superintendent Colonel Woodrow W. Jones III and Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh on Oct. 1st announced the indictments of 19 defendants for multiple charges, including participation in a criminal gang and conspiracy to distribute narcotics, as well as multiple drug kingpin, possession of a large volume of narcotics, and firearms-related counts.

The investigation was led by the Maryland State Police, the Maryland Attorney General's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office.

The collaboration between the agencies responsible for investigating and prosecuting this case was a result of the federal Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) Strike Force initiative, a partnership among federal, state, and local law enforcement. This case was assigned to the Strike Force Group 7, which is led by the Maryland State Police. The Baltimore OCDETF Strike Force team is designed to target violent gangs and drug trafficking organizations.

The indictments announced today are the team's first case brought



MSP Superintendent Colonel Woodrow W. Jones III and MD Attorney General Brian Frosh announce the indictment of 19 people connected to a drug trafficking ring in Baltimore.

under the new initiative. The investigation revealed that the members of the criminal enterprise sold fentanyl and heroin primarily throughout Baltimore City.

The alleged leader, Xavier Johnson, would direct members and associates to rent apartments in downtown Baltimore that served as the enterprise's drug stash locations. High-ranking members of the enterprise would manage these stash locations and transport vast amounts of narcotics to the street-level dealers within the enterprise's territory.

Johnson and other members of the enterprise utilized their social media accounts to broadcast,

promote, and advertise their criminal activity.

Johnson used his internet persona of "Lor X -The South Baltimore Godfather" to promote both his music career and the enterprise's drug trafficking operations. During this long-term investigation, law enforcement recovered nearly 9 kilograms of fentanyl and other narcotics and multiple firearms through the use of undercover buys and search warrants.

Almost all of the seized drugs were determined to be fentanyl, or a mixture containing fentanyl.



IMPACT UPDATE



Trooper Adam Sweckard awards two children with tickets for a free Slurpee as part of "Operation Chill," a partnership between law enforcement and 7-Eleven.

College Park Barrack Participates In 'Operation Chill,' Awards Children Slurpees For Positive Behavior

(COLLEGE PARK, MD) — On Oct. 10th, troopers from the Maryland State Police College Parks Barrack participated in the 25th anniversary of 7-Eleven's "Operation Chill."

The program gives law enforcement officers an opportunity to award children they observe doing good deeds or exhibiting positive behavior with drink coupons. The coupon was good for a free small Slurpee at any participating 7-Eleven store.

Troopers sought out children exhibiting any one of a number of

positive behaviors, including observing street crossing rules, wearing a bike helmet, participating a school safety program and community activities or other good deeds. Nationally, over 23 million coupons have been distributed to law enforcement officers by 7-Eleven.

Along with rewarding good behavior, "Operation Chill" is also used as an icebreaker to establish a positive connection between law enforcement and children in the community.



Trooper Gregory Nolf interacts with children in the College Park area as part of "Operation Chill."



IMPACT UPDATE

Maryland State Police Continues To Stress Importance Of 'Move Over' Laws

(PIKESVILLE, MD) – October marked the two-year anniversary of Maryland's "Move Over" law being expanded to include all service vehicles on state roads.

The Maryland State Police is using this milestone as a reminder on just how important it is for motorists to adhere to these vital motor vehicle safety laws.

Maryland's "Move Over" laws require drivers approaching from the rear of an emergency vehicle using visual signals while stopped on a highway to, if possible, make a lane change into an available lane not immediately adjacent to the emergency vehicle.

This movement should only be done if another lane in the same direction is available and the move can be made safely and without impeding other traffic. If moving to another lane away from the stopped emergency vehicle is not possible, the law requires drivers to slow to a reasonable and prudent speed that is safe for existing weather, road, and vehicular or pedestrian traffic conditions.

The intent of the law is to provide an extra barrier of safety for police officers, fire fighters, emergency rescue personnel and service and utility workers working along Maryland roads. It is hoped that drivers will become more aware of police and emergency workers stopped along the road and move away from them or slow down as they pass by the traffic stop or incident



scene.

The original law went into effect in 2010. In 2014, the law was expanded to not only include police cars but also tow trucks, fire trucks and medical and rescue trucks as well. On Oct. 1, 2018, the law expanded again to transportation, service and utility vehicles, as well as waste and recycling trucks, with yellow or amber flashing lights or signal devices.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, more than 150 law enforcement officers have been killed since 1997 after being struck by vehicles along America's highways. In fact, traffic-related incidents, including vehicle crashes, are one of the leading causes of death for law enforcement officers.

From 2007 to 2017, 39 percent of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty were lost in traffic-

related incidents, the U.S. Department of Transportation said.

Also, according to the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration, more than 4,000 people were injured, and 53 people were killed in work zone crashes between 2014 and 2019.

Motorists appear to have received the message, which is appreciated. Since the law expanded in 2014, troopers went from issuing 5,408 citations and 12,179 warnings to 1,673 citations and 5,677 warnings in 2019 for move over violations. Through Sept. 28, 2020, troopers have issued 865 citations and 3,179 warnings for similar violations this year.



IMPACT UPDATE



Troopers Rescue Two In Separate Western Maryland Aviation Command Missions

Maryland State Police Aviation Command rescued two injured people in separate incidents on Sept. 20 in Western Maryland.

Trooper 5 was dispatched at about 8:30 a.m. to a remote hiking trail near Oldtown, Maryland to assist with the extrication of an injured person deep into the woods.

The victim was injured while hiking the Log Roll Trail in the Green Ridge State Forest, requiring assistance to get out of the woods. Rescue crews from Oldtown Volunteer Fire Department (MD), District 16 VFC (MD), and Paw Paw VFC (WV) were able to make contact with the hiker approximately 45 minutes after the 911

call. Due to the individual's injuries, terrain and the extrication time, rescue personnel requested the assistance of the Aviation Command for an aerial (hoist) extraction.

Trooper 3 was dispatched to a remote mountainous area on the Weaverton Cliffs at approximately 1:40 p.m. to assist in the rescue of an injured hiker. A hiker had fallen approximately 20 feet down a steep embankment and was unable to be moved.

Responding rescuers from the Potomac Valley, Brunswick, Harpers Ferry, and Rohrsersville volunteer fire companies, as well as paramedics from Washington County

EMS 1812, had gained access to the patient, initiated care and determined transportation by medevac helicopter to a trauma center would be most appropriate.

The rescues highlight the capabilities of the Maryland State Police Aviation Command.

Ten AW-139 helicopters based out of seven sections across the State provide medevac, search and rescue, aerial law enforcement, and homeland security services and are prepared to assist in even the most challenging missions.



IMPACT UPDATE

Troopers Charge Multiple Individuals For Illegally Possessing, Purchasing Firearms In MD

The Maryland State Police have charged multiple people over the past month with illegally possessing and/or illegally selling firearms to those not eligible to own them in the state.

The Maryland State Apprehension Team (MSAT) on Oct. 21 charged a female on a criminal summons for purchasing firearms for a convicted felon/prohibited person.

Theresa Louise Lynch, 55, of Denton, Maryland, was located and charged through the Caroline County District Court on a criminal summons for the following charges: straw purchase to a minor/prohibited person, con-straw purchase to a minor/prohibited person, obstructing and hindering an investigation and giving a false statement to an officer.

In collaboration with troopers from MSAT and agents with the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Maryland State Police Firearms Enforcement Unit, troopers learned that Lynch had conducted several straw purchases of firearms for a felon/prohibited person and allowed him access to each of the purchased firearms. During the course of the investigation, Lynch also provided troopers and agents with false/misleading information, which led to the above charges.



On Oct. 20, troopers arrested a wanted felon on an open arrest warrant for illegally possessing firearms in Anne Arundel County.

Joseph Francis Hagan, 54, of Glen Burnie, Maryland, was transported to the Anne Arundel County Detention Center where he was served with the open arrest warrants for 11 counts of possessing a firearm with a felony conviction and 5 counts of possessing a rifle or shotgun with a felony conviction.

Following a four-week firearms investigation, troopers from the Criminal Enforcement Division-Firearms Enforcement Unit initiated a separate firearms investigation that originated in Queen Anne's County, Maryland. Troopers obtained additional information that led to a search and seizure warrant being served at Hagan's residence in Glen Burnie, Maryland. The search warrant resulted in three handguns and eight rifles/shotguns being seized. Troopers from the CED-Firearms Enforcement Sec-

tion, CED-Northern Investigations and the Glen Burnie Barrack assisted in this investigation.

These cases highlight the Maryland State Police's mission of helping to prevent and investigate multi-jurisdictional crime while supporting allied law enforcement agencies across Maryland. The Maryland State Police Criminal Enforcement Division – Firearms Enforcement Unit is committed to supporting Governor Hogan's efforts to reduce gun violence.

The Firearms Enforcement Unit consists of sworn Maryland state troopers tasked with working throughout the state to identify those illegally in possession of firearms and who are perpetuating firearm-related violence, as well as infiltrating and dismantling criminal organizations. Funds for the investigation were provided by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services and the Public Safety and Violence Prevention Act.